

Amendments to the Claims

81. (Currently Amended) A medical or surgical fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said medical or surgical fastener comprising:

a sterile tubular sleeve of variable length having a first aperture through which a tube can pass at a first end of the sleeve and a second aperture through which a tube can pass at the second end of the sleeve, the sleeve ~~capable~~ configured such that when lengthened along a length of a tube between the first and second apertures within the sleeve, the sleeve will grip the tube to exert a compressive gripping force evenly distributed around the tube and along ~~the~~ length of the tube in the sleeve and will further lengthen in response to movement of the tube to increase the compressive gripping force, and when shortened ~~the~~ the compressive gripping force will be released to permit the tube to move relative to the sleeve, wherein the sterile tubular sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall that includes a plurality of filaments helically woven to define a plurality of openings in the wall; and

attachment means configured to couple the sterile tubular sleeve to a patient such that if the sleeve grips a tube the sleeve and attachment means cooperate to secure the tube to the patient.

82. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein the attachment means comprises one or more loops.

83. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 82, wherein the or each loop is formed by doubling over the sleeve.

84. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein the attachment means comprises a harness, sling or other means for embracing a part of the patient.

85. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange for lying against part of the patient's body.

86. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 85, wherein the pad or flange can be adhered or sutured to the patient's body.

87. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein an opening is capable of permitting the tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve.

88. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.

89. (Previously Canceled)

90. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein the attachment means is integral to the sleeve.

91. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein said tube secured to a patient is a catheter.

92. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81 wherein the tubular sleeve has a collar at at least one end of the sleeve, the collar surrounding the first aperture or the second aperture and the collar being operable to shorten the length of the sleeve.

93. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81 wherein the tubular sleeve is of filamentary construction and has a collar at at least one end of the sleeve, the collar surrounding the first aperture or the second aperture and the collar holding together the free ends of the filaments making up the sleeve.

94. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81 in combination with a tube, said tube being secured to a patient by said fastener, wherein the tube has a lumen and can transport fluid to or from a patient.

95. (Currently Amended) A medical or surgical fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said medical or surgical fastener comprising:

a sterile tubular sleeve of variable length having a first aperture through which a tube can pass at a first end of the sleeve and a second aperture through which a tube can pass at the second end of the sleeve, the sleeve configured such that when lengthened along a length of a tube between the first and second apertures within the sleeve, the sleeve will grip the tube to exert a compressive gripping force evenly distributed around the tube and along [[a]] the length of the tube in the sleeve and will further lengthen in response to movement of the tube to increase the compressive gripping force, and when shortened the compressive gripping force will be released to permit the tube to move relative to the sleeve, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall that includes a plurality of filaments helically woven to define a plurality of openings; and

attachment means coupled to one of the first end and the second end of the sterile tubular sleeve and configured to couple the sleeve to a patient such that if the sleeve grips a tube the sleeve and attachment means cooperate to secure the tube to the patient; and

a collar coupled to the other of the first end and the second end of the sleeve and configured such that if the collar is moved toward the attachment means the sleeve will shorten, and if the collar is moved away from the attachment means the sleeve will lengthen, the collar surrounding the aperture in the end of the sleeve to which the collar is coupled.

96. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 95, wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange for lying against part of the patient's body.

97. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 95, wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.

98. (Previously Canceled)

99. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 95, wherein the attachment means is integral to the sleeve.

100. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 95 wherein the tubular sleeve has a second collar coupled to, and surrounding the aperture in, the end of the sleeve to which the attachment means is coupled.

101. (Currently Amended) A medical or surgical sterile fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said medical or surgical fastener comprising:

a sterile tubular sleeve of variable length having a first aperture through which a tube can pass at a first end of the sleeve and a second aperture through which a tube can pass at the second end of the sleeve, the sleeve configured such that when lengthened along a length of a tube between the first and second apertures within the sleeve, the sleeve will grip the tube to exert a compressive gripping force evenly distributed around the tube and along [[a]] the length of the tube in the sleeve and will further lengthen in response to movement of the tube to increase the compressive gripping force, and when shortened the compressive gripping force will be released to permit the tube to move relative to the sleeve, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall that includes a plurality of filaments helically woven to define a plurality of openings; and

attachment means coupled to one of the first end and the second end of the sterile tubular sleeve and configured to couple the sleeve to a patient such that if the sleeve grips a tube the sleeve and attachment means cooperate to secure the tube to the patient; and

a collar coupled to the other of the first end and the second end of the sleeve such that the collar holds open the aperture in the end to which the collar is coupled so the collar is operable to shorten the sleeve by moving the collar towards the attachment means.